

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

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Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Jersey City's Celebrates Ecuadorian Heritage Mayor Healy to Raise Flag and Hosts First Ecuadorian Parade & Festival

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Division of Cultural Affairs proudly announce the City's first **Ecuadorian Parade and Festival** on **Sunday, August 9, 2009**. The parade will commence at **11:30 a.m.** at the **Jersey City Armory** at Baldwin and Montgomery Street and will end at Exchange Place, with festival to follow.

On **Thursday, August 6, 2009**, Mayor Healy will raise the **Ecuadorian Flag** at **6:00 p.m.** at **City Hall**, 280 Grove Street. The flag raising kicks off Ecuador's bicentennial celebration of its declaration of independence from Spain on August 10, 1809. In 1822, the country finally gained its independence when famed South American liberator Simón Bolívar defeated a Spanish army at the battle of Pinchincha.

"Hosting Jersey City's first Ecuadorian parade and festival is a momentous occasion," said **Mayor Healy**. "The event reflects Jersey City's growth and prosperity. This is also a fitting time to host this event as it also commemorates Ecuador's Bicentennial."

New Jersey has become the home of thousands of Ecuadorian-Americans, a burgeoning segment of New Jersey's Hispanic population, making many cultural and economic contributions along the east coast. The parade and festival is sponsored by the Ecuadorian State Parade and Festival Committee of New Jersey, a non-profit organization with representatives from diverse Ecuadorian organizations in the state, as well as professionals, community and civic leaders.

Festival organizers promise a magnificent display of folklore, rich culture and tradition, as well as ethnic fare. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about the **Ecuadorian Parade and Festival**, call the **Division of Cultural Affairs** at **(201) 547-6921**.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///